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CADRE TRAINING AMONG MINORITY NATIONALITIES IN NORTHWEST CHINA

The following are excerpts from the report given at the second plenary conference of the Commission of the Affairs of Nationalities of the Central People's Government. The report, entitled "Various Nationalities in the Northwest China Advance in Unison Under the Banner of Mao Tse-tung," was given by Wang Feng () (). Chairman of the Nationalities Affairs Committee of the Northwest China Military and Administrative Committee. Only the part concerning the training of cadres is presented here.

The training of cadres is the key to achieving success in all the work in the minority nationality areas in Northwest China. In the past 2 years, large numbers of minority nationality c dres were trained under the mass training and sponsoring program. In addition to training all types of cadres, emphasis was also placed on training minority nationality cadres and special cadres in health, industry, trade, public security, arts, and languages. According to incomplete data, there are now about 27,000 cadres not connected with production. If the cadres who are engaging in rent reduction, land reform, and other activities are included, the total will be approximately 30,000.

Most of the 27,000 minority nationality cadres were trained and sponsored after the liberation with the exception of a small segment of the old or relatively old cadres who were trained prior to the liberation. The cadres were principally recruited from the following three sources:

1. From among the activists who participated in the extermination of local banditry, elimination of special agents, establishing of democratic administrations, the Resist America, Aid Korea Movement, suppression of counterrevolutionaries, rent reduction, antidespot movement, and from among the activists who participated in various mass movements in nomadic livestock-farming areas. For example, 3,350 local minority nationality cadres were sponsored and trained in A-k'o-su Ch'u in Sinkiang during the reorganization of village administrations.

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- 2. From the short-term cadre training classes and cadre schools. From March 1950 to August 1951, 1,382 students from 13 minority nationality groups graduated from cadre schools in Sinkiang. Approximately 1,450 additional students are still undergoing training in these schools. Cadre training classes in Lin-hsia Hsien, Kansu, trained 748 cadres in 14 training periods. The following schools are training minority nationality cadres in Northwest China: the Sinkiang Nationalities Institute, the Northwest Nationalities Institute, the Tsinghai Nationalities Public School, the Mingsia Cadre School, the Sinkiang Cadre School, the nationalities department of the Northwest University, the minority nationality languages department of the Lan-chou University, and the minority nationality literature and arts department of the Northwest Arts Institute. There are more than 3,500 students now attending these schools.
- From the carry-over personnel and intellectuals from the old regime. For example, of the total 1,701 minority nationality cadres in Ningsia, 404 are carry-over personnel or old intellectuals who underwent education and reform.

During the past 2 years, these cadres were extremely useful in propaganda work, in executing government policies, in strengthening the ties between the party, government, and the masses, in the elimination of the nationalities barriers, in encouraging the unity among the nationalities, and in arousing the masses to participate and complete all types of work. Their admirable points are: active and feverish enthusiasm. long suffering patience and endurance, honesty and simplicity, special knowledge of local conditions, and close ties with the masses.

It is undeniable that there are many among them whose cultural level is low, and who at first retained different degrees of conservative and shortsighted outlooks and other such shortcomings. These shortcomings are the procucts of history which can be overcome by additional education. Experience proves that progress of the cadres in this respect is very rapid. Those who feel that the newly trained minority nationality cadres are backward, and impotent, or those who minimize or oppose them with the excuse of their low culture and because "they have not been tosted in their work," are not correct.

During the past 2 years, all levels of the Communist Party organization and the people's government pursued the "hands-off" policy toward the work of the minority nationality cadres. They approved everything the cadres did and depended on their work. At the beginning the minority nationality cadres were not given full assignment and were aided step by step in their work to strengthen leadership. They were led to increase their confidence and ability in their work gradually. Their difficulties and feelings were carefully considered; and their customs. habits, etc. were completely respected. Many localities have put into practice the apprenticeship system. In their work they were carefully guided so that they will eventually take the initiative in settling problems. Whenever they made progress, they were given encouragement. Their shortcomings were sincerely criticized to stimulate among them the technique of criticism and self-criticism.

All Han (Chinese) nationality cadres are required to take the initiative to unite and aid the minority nationalities. If discord develops, the Chinese nationality cadres bear the responsibility for amicably settling the differences. If there are mistakes in work, Chinese nationality cadres must first criticize themselves before criticizing others. In addition to completing their assigned tasks, such as rent reduction and land-reform work, the ability of the Chinese nationality cadres is shown by how well they train the minority nationality cadres.

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As for the remnants of the "greater nationalism" (Ta-min-tsu chu-i) and narrow nationalism" (hsia-yai min-tsu chu-i) ideologies among the Chinese nationality and minority nationality cadres, such ideologies should be overcome by means of division of labor, cooperation, self-criticism, and proper assistance of others. From the aspect of leadership, the first stress should be placed on overcoming the "greater nationalism" ideology which should then be followed by a gradual wiping out of the narrow minority nationality ideology.

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